

**FW: DRAFT - County Climate Action Plan document**

Climate &lt;Climate@montgomerycountymd.gov&gt;

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To [REDACTED]

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**From:** Dick Stoner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:04 PM  
**To:** Climate <Climate@montgomerycountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** DRAFT - County Climate Action Plan document

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Hello,

I would like to suggest that in the introduction, some language be added to acknowledge the past 150+ years of development in this county and the country as a whole, involved people learning to provide safer transportation and more dependable home heating, which were both dominated by engineering advancements using fossil fuels. It may be easy to say this document is being created to chart a course forward in time, but there seems to be an overwhelming tone that all electrical power can suddenly be "clean" - produced by the wind and the sun - when in fact over 50% is generated by fossil fuels. An electric car that uses power generated by coal, oil or natural gas is not as clean as it seems.

Maryland has a renewable fuels standard (RFS) and goal to reach a net zero emissions by 2050, so while a more aggressive goal may be admirable and energize some folks, it is not practical and it does not jive with the state standards which addresses electrical power generation on a statewide basis.

I will offer to draft some language that may put the history into perspective. Remember that people regularly died before 1850 and 1900 from cold, and from transportation accidents. Fossil fuels helped to solve many of the causes of death and discomfort, and while the industrialized economy created many more causes of death, it seems that few people today have ever slept in an unheated home or ridden a horse or moved about without a modern vehicle, so I think it would be very worthwhile to point out that 150-200 years of technical and engineering advancement can not be unwound in 10 years, no matter how threatening the climate statistics may be. This plan should also at least mention human habits which may take even longer to change than the energy generation itself.

Please consider an historical introduction which speaks to the 2035 vs. 2050 goals for certain of these very admirable objectives, overall and one which acknowledges the comfort and convenience which fossil fuels have added to life here and across the U.S. and that cleaner sources with lower CO emissions are t

Dick Stoner  
Rockville, MD  
50+ year resident and property owner, manager and farmer



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